

New England

Ecological Services Field Office

in Vermont

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)
Senator James M. Jeffords (I)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I)

Contact

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Profile

Established: 1957
Staff: 27*
FY 2003 budget: \$2,100,000
*Headquarters located in Concord, NH
with satellites in Sunderland, MA, Old
Town, ME and Charlestown, RI.

Purpose

Field office biologists work with landowners, private organizations, government agencies and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in New England. Their work is guided by the following laws and other related legislative authorities:

Clean Water Act

Endangered Species Act

Federal Power Act

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Food Security Act

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

National Environmental Policy Act

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act

Oil Pollution Act

CERCLA (Superfund)

Water Resources Development Act

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

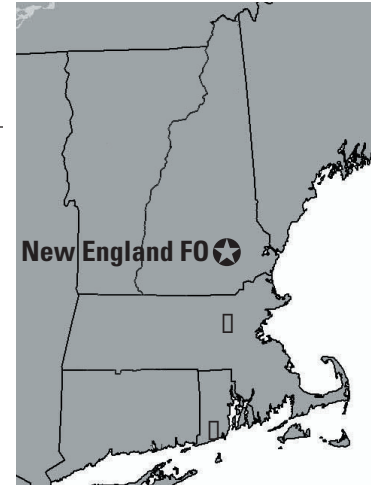
Cooperative Assistance Activities

- Conduct outreach activities to inform media, legislators, interest groups and the public of Service activities.
- In partnership with other agencies and organizations, restore populations of plants and animals on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Provide technical assistance to the Army Corps of Engineers to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of wetland development projects.
- With public and private partners, develop ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate harmful effects of hydropower projects.
- Assess effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, seek compensation for and restore wildlife injured by contaminants, and resolve contaminant problems on Service lands.
- Carry out the Department of the Interior's responsibilities on oil and chemical spill response teams.
- In partnership with other agencies and conservation organizations, restore degraded habitat and remove barriers to fish passage.

Highlights

As a result of Service and other agency negotiations, all of Vermont's major ski areas are implementing minimum flow standards in local rivers to help maintain aquatic habitat during the snowmaking season.

The Service worked cooperatively with town officials to restore and permanently protect wetland and upland habitat associated with the Burgess Brothers landfill and Tansitor Superfund sites.



The Service is assisting the state in restoring a breeding population of bald eagles to the Lake Champlain watershed. Vermont is the only state where eagles have not been re-established.

Service, state and Forest Service biologists continue to document endangered Indiana bat habitat in the Lake Champlain valley. The Service awarded two grants to private landowners to protect and manage Indiana bat hibernacula.

Issues

The Service continues investigating the effects and stabilization of copper tailings at the 40-acre Elizabeth Copper Mine that are leaching high concentrations of metals, impacting water quality and fishery resources.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

<http://www.fws.gov>

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